



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 07 November 2007

Current Nationwide



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- The *Cybercast News Service* reports that at least 1,800 mechanics received false certification from St. George Aviation near Orlando, Florida between October 1995 and January 1999. About 1,000 mechanics have still not been accounted for by the Federal Aviation Administration and could be working for the nation's airlines. (See items [14](#))
- The *Associated Press* reports that an advisory commission created in response to concerns about recalls of dangerous toothpaste, dog food and toys has recommended that the Food and Drug Administration be empowered to order mandatory recalls of products deemed a risk to consumers. The commission recommended several other changes such as increasing the presence of U.S. inspectors from Customs, the Border Patrol, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and other agencies in countries that are major exporters to the United States. (See item [17](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 6, Bloomberg* – (International) **Oil rises above \$97 to a record as North Sea platforms closed.** Crude oil rose above \$97 a barrel in New York to a record as a storm forecast to produce 36-foot waves in the North Sea forced oil companies in the region to evacuate workers and cut production. ConocoPhillips and BP said they have

started evacuating workers from some facilities before the weather worsens. The North Sea produced 4.4 million barrels of oil a day last year, more than OPEC member Iran. An Energy Department report tomorrow will probably show crude-oil supplies fell 1.5 million barrels last week, according to a Bloomberg News survey.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=a2blG59Nhulc&refer=energy>

2. *November 6, The Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **Texas natural gas firms must replace old fittings.** The Railroad Commission of Texas voted 2-1 to force natural gas utilities to dig up and replace older compression-style couplings, costing them millions of dollars that could be passed on to customers. The move to replace the older, rubberized couplings that link underground natural gas lines to homes comes after two fatal explosions since October 2006 in North Texas in which the couplings were implicated.
“We’re doing this as an abundance of caution,” said the commission chairman. “We’re in the middle of an ongoing process” to evaluate all compression couplings used in the state, the chairman said after the meeting. Dallas’ Atmos Energy Co. has about 100,000 of the couplings in North Texas. It had already been replacing the older couplings when they were found to be leaking during normal maintenance checks, and said in a statement Monday night that it was concerned about safety and would comply with any new rules from the commission.

Source:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/110707dnbusatmosdecision.1e4667d95.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *November 6, WLWT News 5 Cincinnati* – (Ohio) **Chemical leak reported at Winton Place Plant.** Authorities were dispatched Tuesday afternoon to a chemical leak in Winton Place. A tank that holds 10,000 gallons of hydrochloric acid began leaking this afternoon at Sun Chemical Corporation. No injuries have been reported so far at the facility, but several ambulances and fire trucks responded to the site. Hydrogen chloride gas is a strong acid that can have a corrosive effect on human tissue.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/wlwt/20071106/lo_wlwt/14524608
4. *November 5, The Associated Press* – (Alaska) **Use of toxic chemical cyanide approved for mine near Fairbanks.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued a permit allowing Fairbanks Gold Mining, a subsidiary of Kinross Gold, to use large batches of the toxic chemical cyanide in its operations at the Fort Knox gold mine, 26 miles northeast of Fairbanks, Alaska. Mines use cyanide to extract fine minerals from extremely low-grade ore, in a process called heap leaching. Fairbanks Gold Mining originally expected Fort Knox to last until 2010, but the heap leaching process should keep the mine active until 2014 and the processing facilities going through 2019.

Source: http://www.ktva.com/alaska/ci_7377087

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *November 6, Reuters* – (New York) **N.Y. FitzPatrick reactor shut for work.** Entergy Corp shut the 852-megawatt FitzPatrick nuclear power station in New York to work on a valve on Monday, a spokeswoman for the plant said Tuesday. She could not say when the unit would return to service due to competitive reasons. During the outage, workers will work on a feed pump discharge valve, which is part of the reactor feedwater system that provides clean heated water to the reactor vessel. On Monday, the unit was operating at 55 percent power. The unit had been ramping up after exiting an outage last week. The company shut the unit on October 28 as high winds blew a significant amount of debris into the plant's water intake. That was the third shutdown for the plant in two months due to debris in the intake. A spokeswoman for the plant said the company was working to solve this problem.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/companyNewsAndPR/idUSN0636061820071106>

6. *November 6, The Winston-Salem Journal* – (Arizona) **Police look for leads in case of pipe bomb at nuclear plant.** Authorities searched yesterday for whoever planted a pipe bomb in a truck, triggering a lockdown at the nation's biggest nuclear power plant, after concluding that the truck's owner was no longer a suspect. Authorities shifted their attention away from the plant employee who returned to work at Palo Verde facility yesterday to "find out who really made the bomb and put it in his truck," Maricopa County Sheriff said.

Source:

<http://www.journalnow.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WSJ%2FMGArticle%2FWSJBasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1173353388408&path=!nationworld&s=1037645509161>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *November 6, PRNewswire* – (National) **ICx awarded Department of Defense contract for AirSentinel monitors Tuesday.** ICx Technologies announced a contract award to procure its AirSentinel ambient aerosol sensors for detection of airborne biological threats. The AirSentinel sensors, developed with support from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), will be deployed as part of the protective capability for the Department of Defense. AirSentinel is a continuous monitoring system that quickly detects changes in concentration of ambient aerosol particles that have characteristics indicative of a potential bio-threat. In addition, AirSentinel is capable of collecting a concentrated sample of those aerosols for subsequent identification when an aerosol event is detected.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/071106/netu085.html?.v=31>

8. *November 6, Business Wire* – (National) **Teledyne awarded new decontamination system contract.** Teledyne Technologies Incorporated announced that Teledyne Brown Engineering, Inc. has been awarded a contract from the Department of Defense to design, develop, integrate, test, manufacture and deliver the Joint Material Decontamination System (JMDS) to U.S. military forces. The JMDS will be designed to remove toxic contamination as a result of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons from sensitive electronic equipment, command posts, aircraft and avionics, and other applications where water and harsh decontamination materials could damage or destroy items being decontaminated.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/071106/20071106005678.html?.v=1>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *November 6, The Associated Press* – (National) **Man admits to file-sharing ID theft.** A Seattle man charged with using online file-sharing programs such as Limewire to commit identity theft pleaded guilty Monday in federal court. Although people have been prosecuted for using networks to illegally share copyrighted music, movies and software, the Justice Department called this its first case against someone accused of using file-sharing to commit identity theft. The man used file-sharing programs to invade victims' computers to get access to their personal information in tax returns, credit reports, bank statements and student financial aid applications. He then used that information to open credit lines and shop online. According to court documents, the hacker used peer to peer file-sharing programs, which are most commonly known for their use in replicating copyright protected music and videos. Using programs such as Limewire, he could search the computers of others who were part of the file-sharing "network" for tax returns and credit reports that had been stored electronically. He also obtained personal information by more old-fashioned methods, such as stealing mail or taking records from trash cans, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5g8QW1DLoxHqcHOcNhnyXf-RjIJJAD8SNVK100>

10. *November 6, The Clarion Ledger* – (Mississippi) **3 charged in Nettleton check fraud operation.** A nationwide lottery scam involving an estimated \$4 million in bogus checks has been traced back to Nettleton in north Mississippi, where three people were arrested on Friday. The investigation drew the attention of federal, state and local agencies. "Most of these types of scams originate out of the country," Mississippi's attorney general (AG) said. He said the suspects would contact potential victims by phone, Internet or mail. Those who replied or seemed interested would receive an envelope overnight with a check for \$3,800 or three \$600 checks. The scammers informed the people that a large cash prize awaited them if they cashed the check and wired the bulk of the money back to a Western Union account, authorities said. If the victim successfully cashed the check or checks, they then would be responsible for them when they turned out to be fake. During the raid at the suspects' home, officers recovered more than \$250,000 in fake checks, authorities said. The scammers would use

actual business addresses from companies out of state for return addresses. UPS officials notified authorities after businesses alerted them that they were receiving envelopes that they did not send. All of the checks look authentic and have M&T Bank, Money Gram, U.S. Postal Service, or other legitimate banking company names on them, but they are fake, said the AG. Authorities said they suspect the fraudulent checks were reproduced and shipped from Spain.

Source:

<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071106/NEWS/711060371/1001/NEWS>

11. *November 5, WATE 6, Knoxville, Tennessee* – (Tennessee) **LCUB warns customers of scam alert.** The Lenoir City Utilities Board (LCUB) in Tennessee is warning its customers to be cautious of a scam. According to a report, a man called a LCUB customer at home and said her electricity would be cut off unless she gave them a credit card number over the phone, but it was a scam. The woman was not behind on her payments. LCUB says it provides its customers with a written notice before terminating service.

Source: <http://www.wate.com/Global/story.asp?S=7316751&nav=0RYv>

12. *November 5, WBRC-TV MyFox, Alabama* – (National) **IRS Social Security scam alert.** The Social Security Administration (SSA) reported a new scam targeting elderly people. According to SSA, someone approaches an elderly citizen and asks if they have filed to get the tax back on their Social Security benefits. They tell the victim (the Social Security beneficiary) to get a 1099 from Social Security so that they can file the income tax refund for the beneficiary. The beneficiary requests the last 3 years 1099 statements showing their Social Security Benefit. The SSA has no choice except to give them the information because it gives them the total payments they have received. The Social Security Administration does tell them that what they are about to participate in is a scam. Few believe them -- or want to. The tax preparer files three years' tax returns showing SS benefits as income. They put in the standard deduction and come up with a refund amount. The beneficiary files the tax return. The Internal Revenue Service sends them a refund. The beneficiary pays the preparer between \$40 and \$100. IRS realizes the error and either takes the refund out of the beneficiary's bank account or sends a demand letter for the refund. The preparer has gotten their money and has moved on, while the beneficiary is out the amount of money paid the preparer and must repay the "refund" to IRS. For more information, visit: <http://www.ssa.gov/>.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxdal.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=4840376&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

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Transportation Sector

13. *November 6, Times Union* – (New York) **Airport crisis was only a drill.** A practice drill organized by the FBI, the New York State Office of Homeland Security, the Colonie Police Department, the Albany County Sheriff's Department, and the State

Police brought more than 200 law enforcement officials from 19 agencies to the town of Colonie, New York Monday night. The drill, which simulated a hostage situation at Albany International Airport, followed a fictitious scenario according to which SWAT teams and police officials reacted to news that terrorists had made their way onto the tarmac at the airport and taken hostages on a passenger jet. Other drills took place nearby. One team was told that accomplices were holed up in a house in Latham, and possibly had a biological weapon with them. In another scenario, police and federal agents were told that a vehicle on the airport grounds contained an improvised explosive. The Colonie Police chief said the drill is important because it gives federal, state, and local officials a chance to practice working in cooperation.

Source:

<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=636489&category=REGION&newsdate=11/6/2007>

14. *November 6, Cybercast News Service* – (National) **FAA hasn't tracked fraudulently certified airplane mechanics.** Federal prosecutors determined that at least 1,800 mechanics received false certification from St. George Aviation near Orlando, Florida between October 1995 and January 1999. Thus far, 717 mechanics out of more than 1,800 have been retested. Of those, 64 percent passed the written and oral exams and 36 percent failed. The FAA began the retesting program shortly after the discovery of the certification fraud, but agency management abruptly stopped the program in spring 2001 after only 130 mechanics took the test, federal investigators found. The FAA disputes the findings of investigators that the testing was ever stopped. However, about 1,000 poorly trained or even untrained airplane mechanics have still not been accounted for by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and could be working for the nation's airlines.

Source:

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/viewstory.asp?Page=/Nation/archive/200711/NAT20071106a.html>

15. *November 5, Government Executive* – (National) **Travel groups want international visitor-tracking tool upgraded.** The National Business Travel Association has boosted lobbying aimed at improving processes and technology for welcoming international visitors at U.S. airports, saying the Homeland Security Department is moving too slowly to meet congressional mandates. A major bill enacted earlier this year to implement unfulfilled recommendations of the commission that investigated the 2001 terrorist attacks requires the department to create a "model ports of entry" program at 20 U.S. airports servicing most foreign business travelers and tourists. However, to date, the department has only deployed the program at two airports: Houston International and Dulles International in the Washington, DC region. The group urged the department "to move as aggressively as possible to implement this program expeditiously." The Discover America Partnership, meanwhile, estimates that the United States has experienced a 17 percent decline in foreign visitors, costing the country \$94 billion in lost spending, nearly 200,000 jobs and \$16 billion in lost tax revenue.

Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=38479&dcn=todaysnews

16. *November 5, The Associated Press* – (National) **Small plane makes crash-landing near Fort Worth’s Meacham Airport.** A pilot suffered minor injuries when his single-engine airplane crash-landed on an Interstate 820 exit ramp near Fort Worth’s Meacham International Airport in Texas on Monday. Authorities say the plane lost power near the airport on Fort Worth’s North Side. The pilot had cuts and abrasions and was taken to a hospital to check for internal injuries.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/ap/tx/5274552.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *November 6, The Associated Press* – (National) **Panel urges recall authority for FDA.** An advisory commission created in response to concerns about recalls of dangerous toothpaste, dog food and toys has recommended that the Food and Drug Administration be empowered to order mandatory recalls of products deemed a risk to consumers. President Bush was to receive the recommendations Tuesday from the panel, which was established in July to study import safety. The panel also will urge increasing the presence of U.S. inspectors from Customs, the Border Patrol, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and other agencies in countries that are major exporters to the United States, an administration official said. Other proposals would strengthen the Consumer Products Safety Commissions’ (CPSC) authority by making it illegal for companies to knowingly sell a recalled product; by authorizing the CPSC to issue follow-up recall announcements, and by requiring recalling companies to report supplier and delivery information. Further, CPSC would be able to impose asset forfeiture penalties for criminal offenses.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gg74csZtdcycAed_1GdDrICVPEgAD8SNSBF00

18. *November 5, Reuters* – (National) **USDA says won’t postpone extra tests of Canada meat.** The U.S. Agriculture Department said Monday it would move forward this week with extra testing and inspection of Canadian meat as it announced Saturday. Canada, which feels that the measures are unnecessary, had said earlier Monday that the additional testing and inspections had been postponed.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/business/20071105-0912-canada-meat-usda.html>

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Water Sector

19. *November 5, The San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Marin water board considers turning to bay for future needs.** California’s Marin Municipal Water District on November 7 will present a draft environmental report on a proposed desalination plant, becoming the first water agency in the Bay Area to seriously consider using San Francisco Bay for drinking water. The proposal, as it stands now, is to build an expandable plant that would initially turn 5 million gallons a day of salty bay water into drinking water. Subsequent construction could expand capacity to 15 million gallons of water per day. “We’re in a unique position. We don’t rely on any Sierra snowmelt and we’re not part of the Central Valley or the state water projects,” said the district board president. “Do we have \$100 million sitting around? No. If we were to go forward with this, it would be a mix of borrowing, rate increases, grants. This is money we would have to go out and raise.”
Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/11/05/BA52T5KUI.DTL>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

20. *November 6, The Record* – (California) **Health-care worker shortage dire.** A new study sponsored by the Campaign for College Opportunity with funding from Kaiser Permanente and the California Wellness Foundation found that major worker shortages have already reached California’s health care sector. The situation is further complicated by California’s aging population, which needs substantially more care as they age, while a generation of highly skilled baby boomers retires from health-care jobs. California’s older than-65 population is the state’s fastest growing group, according to the study, and is expected to increase by 75 percent between 2000 and 2020. For the age group between 65 and 97, health expenditures increase fourfold. The study also found major shortages in allied health jobs, a sector which includes 60 percent of health-care jobs other than physicians, registered nurses and pharmacists. These technical occupations include such jobs as emergency medical technicians, radiology technologists and respiratory therapists. While many factors influence the numbers of these professionals, the study cited the “greatest limiting factor” as the lack of training and education capacity in California’s colleges.
Source: http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071106/A_BIZ/711060305
21. *November 6, WCBS TV, New York* – (New York) **FDNY: 2 firefighters treated for MRSA.** City health officials have tried to do what they can to calm fears after a 12-year old Brooklyn middle school student died last month from the drug-resistant staph infection known as MRSA. But this morning, On Tuesday morning, Fire Department of New York (FDNY) officials confirmed two of its own are being treated for MRSA. Five other firefighters had also contracted the infection at some point in the past year, and each was treated and returned to work. Each infected firefighter works at a different fire house and all are expected to be fine.
Source: <http://wcbstv.com/topstories/mrsa.fdney.infection.2.489958.html>

22. *November 5, Agence France Presse* – (International) **Global experts plot battle against drug resistant TB.** 3,000 experts from 100 countries are gathering at a conference in Cape Town, South Africa this week to discuss XDR-TB, a near incurable, drug-resistant form of tuberculosis that has been detected in 27 countries. More than 1.5 million people die of tuberculosis every year and growing numbers of patients do not react to standard drugs, the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease said in a statement ahead of its 38th world conference on lung health starting Thursday. “Despite international efforts, the increasing incidence of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) and extremely drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB) threatens to push that number higher,” it said. No new TB drugs have been developed in more than 40 years and existing methods of testing are too slow to combat the extreme form of the disease as the link between HIV and TB claims an ever-increasing number of lives. A third of the world’s 40-million people with HIV/AIDS are also believed to have TB. Ahead of the conference, a United States-based medical technology company announced Monday it would slash the price of a tuberculosis diagnostic tool for poor countries with high TB burdens.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20071106/hl_afp/healthlungtuberculosisconferencesafrica:_ylt=AjUuKBFzhu5q9YInAzDNkNbVJRIF

Government Facilities Sector

23. *November 5, United Press International* – (Colorado) **Police: Man tried Colo. Capitol break-in.** A man who claimed to be armed was arrested November 5 trying to break into the Colorado Capitol building in Denver, the state patrol said. The man was later arrested and found to be unarmed. State troopers said that he appeared to be upset over a woman. The arrest followed an incident several months ago in which a gunman was shot and killed outside the governor’s office.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Top_News/2007/11/05/police_man_tried_colo_capitol_break-in/2681/

24. *November 5, CNN* – (National) **Thousands mistakenly allowed past U.S. border, source says.** A new report from the Government Accountability Office found that thousands of people, who should not have been admitted to the United States, were mistakenly allowed in last year because of security lapses at legal border crossings. Although the official number was not disclosed, a source who has seen a full version of the report, in which those statistics were included, put the total at 21,000. The majority of these, according to the report’s author, were economic migrants who did not present a security risk. The report attributes the problem to understaffing and turnover at Customs and Border Protection, as well as weak management controls and complacency and inattentiveness by some officers.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/11/05/border.security/index.html>

25. *November 5, Fox 6 San Diego* – (California) **Bomb scare.** A “suspicious” package

found today on the memorial outside San Diego, California police headquarters turned out to be a transient's personal belongings, a police spokesperson said. The object, which was inspected by a police bomb squad about 8 a.m., was initially described by authorities as a plastic bag with tubes and wires sticking out and with a note attached. Nearby streets, which had been blocked off while the bomb squad removed the object, were later reopened.

Source: http://www.fox6.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=b2013d81-a8cd-47ed-b078-261e261ad24f

26. *November 6, WHDH-TV New England News* – (Massachusetts) **Students return to Peabody High School after bomb threat.** Students at Peabody High School in Massachusetts returned to class on November 6 following a bomb scare the day before, which forced students out of their classrooms. School officials say they found a bomb threat that mentioned a specific time and date written on the wall of a bathroom yesterday morning. Everyone was evacuated while police searched the building. Authorities did not find anything suspicious and let everyone back into school about three hours later. They are still looking for the culprit.

Source: <http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/BO66213/>

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *November 6, San Bernardino County Sun* -- (California) **Mobile telemedicine vehicle to aid in California crisis.** Downed lines of communications can only complicate the already difficult efforts of medical personnel at the scene of a disaster. Loma Linda University Medical Center, however, is now prepared for such a scenario with its new Mobile Telemedicine Vehicle, or MTV. The state-of-the-art vehicle is a combination mobile medical command center and telemedical center. "It's not an ambulance or patient-carrying device," said the operations coordinator for the Center for Prehospital Care, Education and Research at the medical center. "We use it primarily to carry medication and supplies and all of our radio and satellite and wireless communications gear," he said. This self-contained, four-wheel-drive vehicle has sophisticated diagnostic equipment and is connected via satellite to the medical center for teleconferencing. "We can take our equipment to the scene of an emergency or accident or a huge disaster where communication infrastructure is curtailed," he said. "It transports the physician virtually to the scene of an incident." Emergency personnel who staff the vehicle can take mobile X-rays and send test results to a physician at the medical center. Emergency workers can also video conference or use telemedicine that provides situational awareness of what's going on in the field - medically speaking. Medical center officials have tested the vehicle at Glen Helen Regional Park and California Speedway. Last year, it was deployed to the Esperanza Fire command center, and the vehicle's workers treated 25 or 30 fire personnel.

Source: <http://www.emsresponder.com/online/article.jsp?siteSection=24&id=6490>

28. *November 6, Native American Times* – (California) **50 FEMA mobile homes headed to California.** FEMA confirmed to Native American Times yesterday that 50 mobile

homes from storage areas in Hope, Arkansas are on their way to aid fire victims in California. Raging wildfires have left hundreds homeless with estimates for total losses being in the millions of dollars. President Bush has declared this a disaster area in order for federal funding and relief efforts to begin flowing into the devastated areas. FEMA has not confirmed yet whether they are sending the trailers to the La Jolla or the Rincon Indian Reservations in California that were devastated by the fires. A FEMA Public Affairs representative explained, "Mobile homes are a readily available housing option that FEMA has at our disposal to address the emergency housing needs of disaster victims when there are no other available housing resources. The Federal and State Joint Housing Task Force (JHTF) developed a Joint Housing Strategy which incorporates the housing options identified by FEMA's Joint Housing Solutions Group (JHSG). The JHSG is an established team of experts formed after Hurricane Katrina to identify alternate housing solutions. They are working to identify and recommend potential housing units that may serve an alternative."

Source: http://www.nativetimes.com/index.asp?action=displayarticle&article_id=9117

29. *November 5, The Inquirer and Mirror* – (Massachusetts) **Bomb scare reveals inadequacies in island's emergency communications.** As Nantucket police officers and firefighters responded to the bomb threat that shut down ferry traffic in the harbor last weekend, the radio chatter on local scanners was strangely silent. Though all the island's public safety agencies responded to the threat, their communication was generally confined to cell phone calls. With no comprehensive radio system to connect the different departments, those responsible for coordinating the massive operation had to rely on commercial cell phone signals rather than a more reliable radio system. By all accounts, the response to the bomb threat by the police and fire departments, the state police and the Coast Guard went smoothly; however, the need to update the island's 20-year-old communication technology became clear. "None of us could talk to each other and we were using cell phones and Nextels and that was the one thing on-island that hampered us the most," said the island's police chief. "Everybody's on their own and that's the problem. The Fire Department is on a whole different communication band and our radios can't talk to their radios," he explained. He also said his department needs to have reliable communication with not only the other public safety agencies, but also the Department of Public Works, the Health Department, the Marine Department and other organizations like the NRTA. He said an island-wide system would likely involve the construction of three small repeater stations across Nantucket, known technically as a 800 megahertz digital trunked radio communications system. The problem, he said, is the steep cost of such a system which he estimated to be \$3 million. The town has been in contact with Motorola representatives about the feasibility of the upgrade on Nantucket, he said.

Source: <http://www.ack.net/Bomb0728.html>

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Information Technology

30. *November 6, Computerworld* – (National) **Hackers exploiting bug in DRM shipped with Windows.** Microsoft Corp. Monday said it would patch a vulnerability in third-

party anti-piracy software bundled with Windows after it acknowledged that hackers are already exploiting the bug. In a security advisory issued late Monday, Microsoft said it would issue a fix for a vulnerability in an older edition of "secdrv.sys" -- a file also also known as Macrovision Security Driver -- that is part of the SafeDisc copy-protection scheme that Macrovision licenses to game publishers. "The driver, secdrv.sys, is a dispatch driver developed by Macrovision and shipped on supported editions of Windows Server 2003, Windows XP, and Windows Vista," Microsoft said in the advisory. "This vulnerability does not affect Windows Vista." Computerworld confirmed that secdrv.sys is present on stock installations of both Windows XP and Vista, but that the file creation dates -- Feb. 28, 2006 and Nov. 1, 2006, respectively -- differ, with the newer version included in Vista. Microsoft also said that attacks were in progress. "We are aware of limited attacks that try to use the reported vulnerability," the advisory continued. "Microsoft will take the appropriate action [which] will include providing a security update through our monthly release process." Until then, Windows XP and Server 2003 users can download a more recent version of the driver -- marked with a creation date of Sept. 13, 2006 -- from Macrovision's Web site.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9045660&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

31. *November 5, Computerworld* -- (National) **Update: Apple patches seven QuickTime bugs, zaps Java.** Apple Inc. patched seven bugs in QuickTime Monday as it updated the media player to version 7.3 for both Mac OS X and Windows. To quash yet another Java-related vulnerability, Apple zapped QuickTime for Java. All but one of the vulnerabilities would be ranked critical by other vendors, but Apple does not rate flaws or assign an urgency score to patches. Two of the seven vulnerabilities are in QuickTime's rendering of PICT images, one in how the player handles the QTVR (QuickTime Virtual Reality) file format, three in its movie file management, and one in how it works with Java applets. The six flaws that involve image or video file formats can be exploited by attackers able to dupe users into opening malformed files, while the seventh -- the one related to Java -- could be leveraged simply by getting a user to a Web site with a malicious applet. That vulnerability, however, can only result in remote code execution if the attacker has some, if only limited, access rights to the target Mac or PC, said Apple. To reduce the player's attack surface, Apple essentially gave up on Java. Rather than patch the code yet again, it simply disabled QuickTime for Java in most situations. "This update addresses the issues by making QuickTime for Java no longer accessible to untrusted Java applets," the accompanying advisory read.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9045599&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

32. *November 5, Computerworld* -- (National) **Problem-driver database gets ticketed for security flaws.** The U.S. Department of Transportation is not adequately protecting personal data stored in a national database that state motor-vehicle departments use to identify problem drivers, according to a report released last week by the Department of Transportation's inspector general. The National Driver Register (NDR), which is

administered by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), was designed to allow state motor-vehicle agencies to exchange information on drivers who have been convicted of operating under the influence and other offenses. The database contains personal information such as the name, date of birth, sex, height and eye color of drivers. When state workers are processing driver's license applications, they can access the NDR via a network that is managed by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA). According to the inspector general's report, the 42 million records contained in the NDR have been properly secured via data encryption. However, similar controls are not being applied when the data is transmitted to and between state agencies as required by federal minimum security standards, the report claimed. The current failure to meet that requirement is exposing the network transmissions to possible unauthorized access and unapproved use, it added. The report blamed the situation on a failure by the NHTSA to contractually require the AAMVA to apply encryption during the data transmission process. The NHTSA also said that by next June, it plans to have completed the encryption of all data transmissions between its own facilities and those of the contractor that manages the NDR database.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9045625&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

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Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

33. *November 6, Reuters* – (International) **Experts say West can't stop Web radicalization.** After using the Internet from his London home to spread al-Qaeda propaganda, recruit suicide bombers and promote Web sites that encouraged the killing of non-Muslims, a Moroccan-born student and two accomplices, one of whom he had never met in person, became the first to be jailed in Britain for inciting terrorism over the Internet. In September, a Scottish student was imprisoned for eight years for owning terrorism material and distributing it via Web sites. The two cases are examples of what Western authorities believe is the dangerous and growing role the Internet plays in spreading extremist propaganda and recruiting sympathizers to Islamist militant causes. The perceived threat has prompted much talk from governments of the need for action. On Tuesday, the European Commission urged the EU's 27 states to crack down on militant sites. "The Internet serves ... as one of the principal boosters of the processes of radicalization and recruitment and also serves as a source of information on terrorist means and methods, thus functioning as a virtual training camp," the commission's proposal said. However, many governments disagree about what should actually be

done, and experts express serious doubts about what would be effective, saying little research has been carried out. A senior researcher at Dublin's Institute of International and European Affairs, said users could easily circumvent any restrictions imposed by the authorities. "A workable Internet censorship system, even if one were desirable, is not possible within the EU, or anywhere else in the world with a comparable infrastructure or legal norms," he told Reuters. Web sites could relocate from one country to another unless there was international agreement, while the controversial content was often distributed through services that are hard to block, such as legitimate chat rooms. "In China, where censorship is a more serious business, users have developed a series of tools to break through government Internet blocks," he said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9045701&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

34. *November 6, The Trucker News* – (International) **FMCSA: Safety rules reinforced with satellite technology for Mexican, U.S. trucks.** Starting later this month, trucks crossing the U.S.-Mexico border as part of the new demonstration program will have equipment on board that allows them to be monitored as they pick up and deliver their loads, the government stated Monday. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) noted the decision to require the installation of satellite tracking technology on trucks in the program was made after members of Congress expressed a desire to know whether participants are complying with federal safety and trade laws. The agency will initially spend approximately \$367,000 to outfit all trucks from the U.S. and Mexico that take part in the program, and "use the information gathered from the equipment to ensure trucks comply with Hours of Service and rules that govern the trips into and out of the country," said the FMCSA statement. "The GPS-based technology also will allow real-time tracking of truck location, documenting every international-border and state-line crossing." The satellite-based technology, developed by San Diego-based Qualcomm Inc., will be used to track trucks by vehicle number and company only — no driver information will be collected, FMCSA added. According to FMCSA, the technology will help continue to ensure that trucks operating as part of the program are complying with the agency's safety standards and U.S. trade laws.

Source:

<http://www.thetrucker.com/News/Stories/2007/11/6/FMCSASafetyrulesreinforcedwithsatellitetechnologyforMexicanUStucks.aspx>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

35. *November 5, News Journal* – (Florida) **Citizens' business rate going up.** Florida regulators said Monday they have approved a 15 percent statewide increase for Citizens' business customers in specially designated high-risk areas, including parts of Volusia and Flagler counties. State-backed Citizens said in September it wanted to more than triple average rates statewide. The increases will hit about 36,000 businesses that rely on Citizens to insure them against hurricane damage. The big difference between the proposed increase and the approved amount stems, at least in part, from a reinsurance

issue. The proposal by Citizens anticipated costs for reinsurance, which is a crucial form of backup coverage that often helps pay hurricane claims. But regulators want Citizens to buy reinsurance before putting it in a rate proposal.

Source: [http://www.news-](http://www.news-journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/Business/Headlines/bizBIZ01110607.htm)

[journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/Business/Headlines/bizBIZ01110607.htm](http://www.news-journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/Business/Headlines/bizBIZ01110607.htm)

36. *November 5, News 10, Syracuse* – (New York) **Carbon monoxide scare leads to extra safety precautions.** A carbon monoxide scare on Saturday at the Greater Binghamton Sports Complex in Binghamton, New York sent 10 people to a local hospital and evacuated nearly 100 people. Gas generators were set up inside the facility by an entertainment company prepping for a festival. The generators filled the dome-shaped complex with unsafe levels of carbon monoxide. Now that the dome is back open and in use, safety measures are being taken. Everyone hospitalized from the event has been released from the hospital.

Source: http://news10now.com/content/all_news/?ArID=125433&SecID=83

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

37. *November 4, The Vail Daily* – (Colorado) **Battle brews over pipeline near Aspen.** Environmental and hunting groups in Colorado oppose a proposed pipeline that would cut a permanent 50-foot swath through three roadless areas in the White River National Forest and Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre, and Gunnison National Forests. The joint proposal for the 25.5 mile pipeline comes from a Dallas company, SG Interests and Gunnison Energy, a subsidiary of the Oxbow Corporation. The Forest Service identified the route through the roadless areas as the preferred route, in opposition to alternate, longer routes that would not cut through the areas. However, the Colorado Division of Wildlife wrote a letter opposing the chosen route, noting that it “had the most negative impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitats of all four routes which we analyzed.” The pipeline company would prefer the route with the least impact and it will abide with the decision of the Forest Service. The company also said the impacts of the new pipeline would be nominal because of an existing 5-inch pipeline and because of revegetation following initial construction.

Source: <http://www.vaildaily.com/article/20071104/NEWS/71025039/0/FRONTPAGE>

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Dams Sector

38. *November 6, The Record* – (California) **Levee plan changes course.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has deemed the levee along Bear Creek in north Stockton, California deficient, due to the presence of boat docks and other structures. Originally the warning applied to the entire 46 mile system of levees, but, after further study, their warning now applies only to the south side of Bear Creek west of Interstate 5. Bear Creek is only one part of a complicated flood plain mapping effort by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Significant portions of Stockton may be in the new flood plain. In

drawing its maps, FEMA takes into account the Corps' levee maintenance concerns. The example of the Bear Creek boat docks frustrated local officials because such a huge area was originally affected. FEMA's maps could be issued as early as this month. The Corps' ruling on whether boat docks or structures on a levee make it deficient is one of many factors that FEMA will consider, an agency spokesman said.

Source:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071106/A_NEWS/711060339

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